

Remarks

Claims 1-7 and 22-32 are in the application, of which claim 1 is in independent form. The claims are unchanged by this response.

A "Related Applications" paragraph is added in the specification to set forth national phase data and the foreign priority data claimed in the International Application.

A Supplemental Declaration and a Supplemental Application Data Sheet setting forth the priority data are also submitted herewith.

Claims 1-7 and 22-32 stand rejected on various grounds over Asano et al., "Hydrolytically Stable Polyimide Ionomer for Fuel Cell Applications", Chem. of Materials, v. 16, 2841-2843 (July 1, 2004), alone and in combination with other references. In response to these grounds for rejection, applicant seeks to perfect the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 365(b) and § 119(a)-(d) to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-409239, filed December 8, 2003, by submitting herewith a sworn certified accurate English language translation of a certified copy of such priority application. By perfecting the priority claim, applicant establishes an effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) of December 8, 2003, which is well before the July 27, 2004 publication date and March 17, 2004 submission date of Asano et al. 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(4); MPEP § 706.02(b). Consequently, the Asano et al. publication is no longer citable as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or § 103. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the grounds for rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submits herewith an information disclosure statement (IDS) including a listing of documents cited in the International Search Report (ISR), the ISR itself, and the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP). Copies of the ISR, IPRP, cited foreign patents, and English language translations or abstracts thereof, are also submitted herewith. Because the listed documents were cited during international proceedings, they should already be found in the application file and no fee should be required in connection with submission of the enclosed IDS. Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner acknowledge his consideration of these documents in the next action by initialing a copy of the listing of cited documents included with the IDS. MPEP § 1893.03(g).


Conclusion

Applicant believes that no fee is required in connection with filing of this amendment or any of the enclosed papers. However, in the event that a fee is required, applicant hereby authorizes the Director to charge required fees to USPTO Deposit Account No. 19-4455.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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